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2. A number of chimneys or funnels standing together.
A maſon making a *ſtack* of chimneys, the foundation of the houſe funk. *Wiſeman's Surgery.*
To *STACK*. *v. a.* [from the noun.] To pile up regularly in ricks.
So likewiſe a hovel will ſerve for a room,
To *ſtack* on the peaſe. *Tuſſer.*
The prices of *ſtacking* up of wood I ſhall give you. *Mort.*
STACK. *n. ſ.* An aromattick; the gum that diſtills from the tree which produces myrrh.
Take ſweet ſpices, *ſtates*, and galbanum. *Ex. xxx. 34.*
STADLE. *n. ſ.* [ſcabel, Saxon, a foundation.]
1. Any thing which ſerves for ſupport to another.
2. A ſtaff; a crutch.
He cometh on, his weak ſteps governing
And aged limbs on cypreſs *ſtadle* ſtout,
And with an ivy twine his waſt is girt about. *Fa. Queen.*
3. A tree ſuffered to grow for coarſe and common uſes, as poſts or rails. Of this meaning I am doubtful.
Leave growing for *ſtadles* the likeliſt and beſt,
Though ſeller and buyer diſpatched the reſt. *Tuſſer.*
Coppice-woods, if you leave in them *ſtadles* too thick, will run to buſhes and briars, and have little clean underwood. *Bac.*
To *STADLE*. *v. a.* [from the noun.] To furniſh with ſtadles.
Fiſt ſee it well fenced, ere hewers begin;
Then ſee it well *ſtadled* without and within. *Tuſſer.*
STADTHOLDER. *n. ſ.* [*ſtadt and houden*, Dutch.] The chief magiſtrate of the United Provinces.
STAFF. *n. ſ.* plur. *ſtaves*. [ſcæp; Saxon; *ſtaff*, Daniſh; *ſtof*, Dutch.]
1. A ſtick with which a man ſupports himſelf in walking.
It much would pleaſe him,
That of his fortunes you would make a *ſtaff*
To lean upon. *Shakeſp. Ant. and Cleopatra.*
Grant me and my people the benefit of thy chaſtiſements,
that thy rod as well as thy *ſtaff* may comfort us. *K. Charles.*
Is it probable that he, who had met whole armies in battle,
ſhould now throw away his *ſtaff*, out of fear of a dog. *Broom.*
2. A prop; a ſupport.
Hope is a lover's *ſtaff*; walk hence with that,
And manage it againſt deſpairing thoughts. *Shakeſp. Lear.*
The boy was the very *ſtaff* of my age, my very prop. *Shak.*
3. A ſtick uſed as a weapon; a club; the handle of an edged or pointed weapon. A *club* properly includes the notion of weight, and the *ſtaff* of length.
I cannot ſtrike at wretched kernes, whoſe arms
Are hir'd to bear their *ſtaves*. *Shakeſp. Macbeth.*
He that bought the ſkin ran greater riſque than t'other that fold it, and had the worſe end of the *ſtaff*. *L'Eſtrange.*
With forks and *ſtaves* the felon they purſue. *Dryden.*
4. Any long piece of wood.
He forthwith from the glitt'ring *ſtaff* unfurl'd
Th' imperial enſign. *Milton.*
To his ſingle eye, that in his forehead glar'd
Like a full moon, or a broad burniſh'd ſhield,
A fork'd *ſtaff* we dex't'rouſly apply'd,
Which, in the ſpacious ſocket turning round,
Scoop'd out the big round gelly from its orb. *Addiſon.*
5. An enſign of an office; a badge of authority.
Methought this *ſtaff*, mine office-badg in court,
Was broke in twain. *Shakeſp. Henry VI.*
All his officers brake their *ſtaves*; but at their return new *ſtaves* were deliver'd unto them. *Hayward on Edward VI.*
6. [Stef, Ilandick.] A ſtanza; a ſeries of verſes regularly diſpoſed, ſo as that, when the ſtanza is concluded, the ſame order begins again.
Cowley found out that no kind of *ſtaff* is proper for an heroic poem, as being all too lyrical; yet though he wrote in couplets, where rhyme is free from contraiſt, he affects half verſes. *Dryden.*
STAFFISH. *adj.* [from *ſtaff*.] Stiff; harſh. Obſolete.
A wit in youth not over dull, heavy, knotty, and lumpiſh, but hard, tough, and though ſomewhat *ſtaffiſh*, both for learning and whole courſe of living, proveth always beſt. *Aſham.*
STAFFETREE. *n. ſ.* A fort of ever green privet.
STAG. *n. ſ.* [Of this word I find no derivation.] The male red deer; the male of the hind.
To the place a poor ſequeſtred *ſtag*,
That from the hunter's aim had ta'en a hurt,
Did come to languiſh. *Shakeſp. As you like it.*
The ſwift *ſtag* from under ground
Bore up his branching head. *Milton.*
Th' inhabitants of ſeas and ſkies ſhall change,
And fiſh on ſhore, and *ſtags* in air ſhall range. *Dryden.*
The *ſtag*
Hears his own feet, and thinks they found like more,
And fears his hind legs will o'erſtake his fore. *Pope.*
STAGE. *n. ſ.* [*ſtages*, French.]
1. A floor raiſed to view on which any ſhow is exhibited.
2. The theatre; the place of ſcenick entertainments.
And much good do't you then,
Brave pluſh and velvet men:

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- Can feed on ort; and, ſafe in your *ſtage* clothes,
Dare quit, upon your oaths,
The ſtagers and the *ſtage* wrights too. *Ben. Jonſon.*
Thoſe two Mytilene brethren, baſely born, crept out of a ſmall galliot unto the majeſty of great kings. Herein admire the wonderful changes and chances of theſe worldly things, now up, now down, as if the life of man were not of much more certainty than a *ſtage* play. *Knolly's Hiſt. of the Turks.*
I maintain, againſt the enemies of the *ſtages*, that patterns of piety, decently repreſented, may ſecond the precepts. *Dryd.*
One Livius Andronicus was the firſt *ſtage* player in Rome. *Dryden's Juvenal, Dedication.*
Knights, ſquires, and ſteeds muſt enter on the *ſtage*. *Pope.*
Among ſlaves, who exerciſed polite arts, none ſold ſo dear as *ſtage* players or actors. *Arbutnot on Com.*
3. Any place where any thing is publickly tranſacted or performed.
When we are born, we cry that we are come
To this great *ſtage* of ſoals. *Shakeſp. King Lear.*
4. A place in which reſt is taken on a journey; as much of a journey as is performed without intermiſſion. [*ſtatio*, Latin.] I ſhall put you in mind where it was you promiſed to ſet out, or begin your firſt *ſtage*; and beſeech you to go before me my guide. *Hammond's Praſt. Catech.*
Our next *ſtage* brought us to the mouth of the Tiber. *Add.*
From thence compell'd by craft and age,
She makes the head her laſt *ſtage*. *Prior.*
By opening a paſſage from Muſcovy to China, and marking the ſeveral *ſtages*, it was a journey of ſo many days. *Baker.*
5. A ſingle ſtep of gradual proceſs.
The changes and vicitude in wars are many; but chiefly in the ſeats or *ſtages* of the war, the weapons, and the manner of the conduct. *Bacon's Eſſays.*
We muſt not expect that our journey through the ſeveral *ſtages* of this life ſhould be all ſmooth and even. *Atterbury.*
To prepare the ſoul to be a fit inhabitant of that holy place to which we aſpire, is to be brought to perfection by gradual advances through ſeveral hard and laborious *ſtages* of diſcipline. *Rogers's Sermons.*
The firſt *ſtage* of healing, or the diſcharge of matter, is by furgeons called digeſtion. *Sharp's Surgery.*
To *STAGE*. *v. a.* [from the noun.] To exhibit publickly. Out of uſe.
I love the people;
But do not like to *ſtage* me to their eyes:
Though it do well, I do not reſiſt well
Their loud applauſe. *Shakeſp. Meaſure for Meaſure.*
The quick comedians
Extemp'rally will *ſtage* us, and preſent
Our Alexandrian revells. *Shakeſp. Ant. and Cleopatra.*
STAGCOACH. *n. ſ.* [*ſtage and coach*.] A coach that keeps its ſtages; a coach that paſſes and repaſſes on certain days for the accommodation of paſſengers.
The ſtory was told me by a prieſt, as we travelled in a *ſtagcoach*. *Addiſon.*
When late their miry ſides *ſtagcoaches* ſhow,
And their ſtiff horſes through the town move ſlow,
Then let the prudent walker ſhoes provide. *Gay.*
STAGPLAY. *n. ſ.* [*ſtage and play*.] Theatrical entertainment.
This rough-caſt unheewn poetry was inſtead of *ſtagplays* for one hundred and twenty years. *Dryden's Juvenal, Dedication.*
STAGER. *n. ſ.* [from *ſtage*.]
1. A player.
You ſafe in your *ſtage* clothes,
Dare quit, upon your oaths,
The *ſtagers* and the *ſtage* wrights too. *Ben. Jonſon.*
2. One who has long acted on the ſtage of life; a practitioner; a perſon of cunning.
I've heard old cunning *ſtagers*
Say, fools for argument uſe wagers. *Hudibras.*
One experienced *ſtager*, that had baffled twenty traps and tricks before, diſcovered the plot.
Some *ſtagers* of the wiſer fort
Made all theſe idle wonderments their ſport:
But he, who heard what ev'ry fool could ſay,
Would never fix his thought, but trim his time away. *Dryd.*
One cries out, theſe *ſtagers*
Come in good time to make more work for wagers. *Dryd.*
Be by a parſon cheated!
Had you been cunning *ſtagers*,
You might yourſelves be treated
By captains and by majors. *Swift.*
STAGG. *n. ſ.* A diſcaſe in horſes.
STAGGARD. *n. ſ.* [from *ſtag*.] A four year old ſtag. *Anglo.*
To *STAGGER*. *v. n.* [*ſtaggeren*, Dutch.]
1. To reel; not to ſtand or walk ſteadily.
He began to appear ſick and giddy, and to *ſtagger*; after which he fell down as dead.
He ſtruck with all his might
Full on the helmet of th' unwary knight:
Deep was the wound; he *ſtagger'd* with the blow. *Dryden.*
Them

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- Them revelling the Tentyrites invade;
By giddy heads and *ſtaggering* legs betray'd:
Strange odds! where cropp'd drunkards muſt engage
An hungry foe. *Tate's Juvenal.*
The immediate forerunners of an apoplexy are a vertigo, *ſtaggering*, and loſs of memory.
2. To faint; to begin to give way.
The enemy *ſtaggers*: if you follow your blow, he falls at your feet; but if you allow him reſpite, he will recover his ſtrength. *Addiſon.*
3. To heſitate; to fall into doubt; to become leſs confident or determined.
A man may, if he were fearful, *ſtagger* in this attempt. *Shak.*
He *ſtaggered* not at the promiſe of God through unbelief; but was ſtrong in faith. *Rem. iv. 20.*
Three means to fortify belief are experience, reaſon, and authority: of theſe the moſt potent is authority; for belief upon reaſon, or experience, will *ſtagger*. *Bacon.*
No hereticks deſire to ſpread
Their light opinions, like theſe Epicures;
For to their *ſtaggering* thoughts are comforted;
And other men aſſent their doubt aſſures. *Davies.*
If thou confidently depend on the truth of this, without any doubting or *ſtaggering*, this will be accepted by God. *Hamm.*
But let it inward ſink and drown my mind:
Faithhood ſhall want its triumph: I begin
To *ſtagger*; but I'll prop myſelf within. *Dryden.*
To *STAGGER*. *v. a.*
1. To make to *ſtagger*; to make to reel.
That hand ſhall burn in never-quenching fire;
That *ſtaggers* thus my perſon. *Shakeſp. Richard II.*
2. To ſhock; to alarm; to make leſs ſteady or confident.
The queſtion did at firſt to *ſtagger* me,
Bearing a ſtate of mighty moment in't. *Shak. Henry VIII.*
When a prince falls in honour and juſtice, 'tis enough to *ſtagger* his people in their allegiance. *L'Eſtrange.*
Whoſoever will read the ſtory of this war, will find himſelf much *ſtaggered*, and put to a kind of riddle. *Howel.*
The ſhells being lodged with the belemites, ſelenites, and other like natural ſoſils, it was enough to *ſtagger* a ſpectator, and make him ready to entertain a belief that theſe were ſo too. *Woodward.*
STAGGERS. *n. ſ.* [from the verb.]
1. A kind of horſe apoplexy.
His horſe paſt cure of the fives, ſtark ſpoil'd with the *ſtagger*. *Shakeſp. Taming of the Shrew.*
2. Madneſs; wild conduct; irregular behaviour. Out of uſe.
I will throw thee from my care for ever
Into the *ſtagers*, and the careless lapſe
Of youth and ignorance. *Shak. All's well that ends well.*
STAGNANT. *n. ſ.* [from *ſtagnant*.] The ſtate of being without motion or ventilation.
STAGNANT. *adj.* [*ſtagnans*, Latin.] Motionleſs; ſtill; not agitated; not flowing; not running.
What does the flood from putrefaction keep?
Should it be *ſtagnant* in its ample ſeat,
The fun would through it ſpread deſtructive heat. *Blackm.*
'Twas owing to this hurry and action of the water that the ſand now was caſt into layers, and not to a regular ſettlement, from a quiet and *ſtagnant*. *Woodward.*
Immur'd and buſied in perpetual ſloth,
That gloomy ſlumber of the *ſtagnant* ſoul. *Irene.*
To *STAGNATE*. *v. n.* [*ſtagnare*, Latin.] To lie motionleſs; to have no courſe or ſtream.
The water which now ariſes muſt have all *ſtagnated* at the ſurface, and could never poſſibly have been refunded forth upon the earth, had not the ſtrata been thus raiſed up. *Woodw.*
The aliment moving through the capillary tubes *ſtagnates*, and unites itſelf to the veſſel through which it flows. *Arbutnot.*
Where creeping waters ooze, *Thomſon.*
STAGNATION. *n. ſ.* [from *ſtagnate*.] Stop of courſe; ceſſation of motion.
As the Alps ſurround Geneva on all ſides, they form a vaſt baſon, where there would be a conſtant *ſtagnation* of vapours, did not the north wind ſcatter them from time to time. *Addiſon.*
To what great ends ſubſervient is the wind?
Behold, where e'er this active vapour flies,
It drives the clouds, and agitates the ſkies:
This from *ſtagnation* and corruption ſaves
Th' aerial ocean's ever-rolling waves. *Blackmore's Creation.*
STAG. *participle adjective*. [from *ſtag*.] Sober; grave; regular; compoſed; not wild; not volatile.
Put thyſelf
Into a 'haviour of leſs fear, ere wildneſs
Vanquiſh my *ſtair* ſenſes. *Shakeſp. Cymbeline.*
This ſeems to our weaker view,
O'erlaid with black *ſtair* wiſdom's hue. *Milton.*
I ſhould not be a perſuader to them of ſtudying much in the ſprings, after three years that they have well laid their grounds; but to ride out, with prudent and *ſtair* guides, to all the quarters of the land. *Milton on Education.*

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- I am the more at eaſe in ſir Roger's family, becauſe it conſiſts of ſober and *ſtair* perſons. *Addiſon.*
STAIRNESS. *n. ſ.* [from *ſtair*.] Sobriety; gravity; regularity; contrariety to wildneſs.
The boiling blood of youth, fiercely agitating the fluid air, hinders that ſerenity and fixed *ſtairneſs* which is neceſſary to ſo ſevere an intentneſs. *Glanv. Scry.*
If ſometimes he appears too gay, yet a ſecret gracefuſneſs of youth accompanies his writings, though the *ſtairneſs* and ſobriety of age be wanting. *Dryd. Preface to Ovid.*
To *STAIN*. *v. a.* [*ſtaenio*, Welſh, from *ys* and *to enu*.]
Rhag Gwyar or Gnowd, *Taliesyn*, an old Britiſh poet.]
Afar *ſtaenawd*. *Taliesyn*, an old Britiſh poet.]
1. To blot; to ſpot; to maculate.
Lend me a looking-glaſs;
If that her breath will miſt or *ſtain* the ſtone,
Why then the lives. *Shakeſp. King Lear.*
From the gath a ſtream
His armour *ſtain'd*, ere while fo bright. *Milton.*
Embrace again, my ſons: he ſees no more,
Nor *ſtain* your country with your children's gore. *Dryden.*
2. To diſgrace; to ſpot with guilt or infamy.
Of honour void, of innocence, of faith, of purity,
Our wonted ornaments now ſoil'd and *ſtain'd*. *Milton.*
STAIN. *n. ſ.* [from the verb.]
1. Blot; ſpot; diſcoloration.
Nor death itſelf can wholly waſh their *ſtains*;
But long contracted filth ev'n in the ſoul remains:
The reliques of inveterate vice they wear,
And ſpots of ſin. *Dryden's En.*
We no where meet with a more pleaſing ſnow than what appears in the heavens at the riſing and ſetting of the ſun, which is wholly made up of thoſe different *ſtains* of light that ſhew themſelves in clouds of a different ſituation. *Addiſon.*
Swift trouts diverſity'd with crimſon *ſtains*,
And pikes, the tyrants of the wat'ry plains. *Pope.*
2. Taint of guilt or infamy.
To ſolemn actions of royalty and juſtice their ſuitable ornaments are a beauty: are they only in religion a *ſtain*? *Hooker.*
Our opinion, concerning the force and virtue which ſuch places have, is, I truſt, without any blemiſh or *ſtain* of heſitancy. *Hecker.*
Then heav'n and earth renew'd, ſhall be made pure
To ſanctity, that ſhall receive no *ſtain*. *Milton's Par. Loſt.*
Ulyſſes bids his friends to caſt lots; for if he had made the choice himſelf, they whom he had rejected might have judg'd it a *ſtain* upon them for want of merit. *Broom.*
3. Cauſe of reproach; ſhame.
Hereby I will lead her that is the praiſe, and yet the *ſtain* of all womankind. *Sidney.*
STAINER. *n. ſ.* [from *ſtain*.] One who ſtains; one who blots.
STAINLESS. *adj.* [from *ſtain*.]
1. Free from blots or ſpots.
The phoenix wings are not ſo rare
For faultleſs length and *ſtainleſs* hue. *Sidney.*
2. Free from ſin or reproach.
I cannot love him;
Yet I ſuppoſe him virtuous, know him noble,
Of great eſtate, of freſh and *ſtainleſs* youth. *Shakeſp. Lear.*
STAIR. *n. ſ.* [*ſcægen*, Saxon; *ſtaige*, Dutch.] Steps by which we riſe an aſcent from the lower part of a building to the upper. *Stair* was anciently uſed for the whole order of ſteps; but *ſtair* now, if it be uſed at all, ſignifies, as in *Milton*, only one flight of ſteps.
A good builder to a high tower will not make his *ſtair* upright, but winding almoſt the full compaſs about, that the ſteepneſs be the more inſenſible. *Sidney.*
How many cowards, whoſe hearts are all as falſe
As *ſtairs* of ſand, wear yet upon their chins
The beards of Hercules and frowning Mars!
Slaver with lips as common as the *ſtairs* of ſand. *Shakeſp. Lear.*
That mount the Capitol.
I would have one only goodly room above *ſtairs*, of ſome forty foot high. *Bacon's Eſſays.*
Sir James Tirrel repairing to the Tower by night, attended by two ſervants, ſtood at the *ſtair*-foot, and ſent theſe two villains to execute the murder. *Bacon.*
There being good *ſtairs* at either end, they never went through each other's quarters.
The *ſtairs* were ſuch as whereon Jacob ſaw
Angels aſcending and deſcending. *Milton's Parad. Loſt.*
Satan now on the lower *ſtair*,
That ſeal'd by ſteps of gold to heav'n gate,
Looks down with wonder at the ſudden view
Of all this world. *Milton's Parad. Loſt.*
I rembling he ſprings,
As terror had increas'd his feet with wings;
Nor ſtair for *ſtairs*; but down the depth he threw
His body: on his back the door he drew. *Dryd. H.*
STAIRCASE. *n. ſ.* [*ſtair and caſe*.] The part of a fabrick that contains the ſtairs.